

California State Senate

SENATOR
NOREEN EVANS
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



April 8, 2011

COMMITTEES
JUDICIARY
CHAIR
AGRICULTURE
BANKING & FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #4
GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION
NATURAL RESOURCES
AND WATER
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE
VICE CHAIR
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY
CHAIR
LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS
CHAIR

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4002
50 D STREET
SUITE 120A
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
(707) 576-2771
710 E STREET
SUITE 150
EUREKA, CA 95501
(707) 445-6508
200 SOUTH SCHOOL STREET
UKIAH, CA 95482
(707) 468-8914
1040 MAIN STREET
SUITE 205
NAPA, CA 94559
(707) 224-1990
444 GEORGIA STREET
VALLEJO, CA 94590
(707) 648-5312

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for Purchase of the 122-Acre Ranchero Mark West

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I write in support of LandPaths and their grant request of the California Coastal Conservancy's Bay Program for the purchase of a 122-acre historic ranch to create a publicly-accessible education nature center. Located at the northeast corner of the City of Santa Rosa, Ranchero Mark West has the potential to become an urban open space nature preserve.

The project includes the expansion of a current working forest easement of second and old-growth redwoods that protect a riparian corridor along Mark West Creek. This expansion would ensure protection of Coho salmon and steelhead that inhabit the year-round tributary. Additionally, the property has numerous facets which make it ideal for public use, including an historic ranch house, barn, pastures, pond, hiking trails, and an ADA-accessible reach of the creek.

Ranchero Mark West is situated at Mile 25 in the 52-mile long Mayacamas Mountain Range and at its east-west midpoint, or in other words, the geographic heart of one of the most species-rich areas in California. Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve, which abuts Santa Rosa's urban growth boundary, is less than one third of a mile from the property and could benefit greatly with the existing parking and staging area at Ranchero Mark West. The potential for ecological and public trail connectivity to Saddle Mountain and Bothe-Napa Valley State Park are promising aspects of this project.

Ranchero Mark West has been available for public use to a number of community, nonprofit, and academic groups since the late 1960's, and the discounted purchase of a remainder interest in the property now would ensure it is publicly accessible in perpetuity. I trust the Conservancy will give this proposal its full and careful consideration, and I hope it will grant the funds necessary to move this project forward. I greatly appreciate your consideration of this award. Please do not hesitate to contact my District Director, Ed Sheffield, at (707) 576-2771 with any questions you may have regarding my support for this proposal.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "NoREEN EVANS".

NOREEN EVANS
Senator, 2nd District

RECEIVED

APR 11 2011

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0007
(916) 319-2007
FAX (916) 319-2107

Assembly
California Legislature



MICHAEL ALLEN
ASSISTANT MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
BUDGET
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT, RETIREMENT
AND SOCIAL SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEES
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #4 ON
STATE ADMINISTRATION
OVERSIGHT AND PERFORMANCE
EVALUATION

SELECT COMMITTEES
CHAIR: STATE HOSPITAL SAFETY

April 29, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

As a member of both the California Wildlife Conservation Board and the California Legislative Environmental Caucus, I consider preserving, protecting and cleaning up the environment to be among my top priorities in the State Assembly.

Because of my concern for the environment and the protection of our parks, open spaces and wild lands, I am writing in strong support of LandPaths' grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly-accessible nature center at Rancho Mark West, which is located close to urban Santa Rosa.

Not only will this project provide needed public access close to a densely populated area, it will also permanently protect a reach of coho salmon and steelhead-bearing Mark West Creek. In addition, the project would tighten the existing working forest easement so as to permanently protect the climax successional riparian corridor and second-growth and old-growth redwood forest adjacent to the creek.

The property has numerous facets which make it ideal for public use in addition to the ADA-accessible reach of Mark West Creek, including a historic ranch house, barn, pastures, pond and miles of hiking trails. Rancho Mark West is situated at mile 25 in the 52-mile long Mayacamas Mountain Range, at its east-west midpoint (the geographic heart of one of the most species-rich areas in California). Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve, which abuts Santa Rosa's urban growth boundary, is less than one-third of a mile from the property and could benefit greatly with the existing parking and staging area at Rancho Mark West. The potential for ecological and public trail connectivity to Saddle Mountain and northeast towards Bothe Napa State Park are exciting aspects of this project.

RECEIVED

MAY 02 2011

DISTRICT OFFICES

50 D STREET, SUITE 301 • SANTA ROSA, CA 95404 • (707) 546-4500 • FAX (707) 546-9031
1040 MAIN STREET, SUITE 205 • NAPA, CA 94559 • (707) 258-8007 • FAX (707) 258-8205
1713 SONOMA BOULEVARD • VALLEJO, CA 94590 • (707) 649-2307 • FAX (707) 649-2311

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.**



Our nonprofit partner, LandPaths, has a track record of working with public agencies and community-based organizations to provide free, passive public use to lands throughout Sonoma County. In recent years, this has included the development and stewardship of a landmark city park based on the model of a working farm, Bayer Farm & Gardens, which is situated in Roseland, the most park-underserved square mile in all of coastal Northern California. Hundreds of school children from the nine school districts which comprise metropolitan Santa Rosa already use Rancho Mark West under its current private ownership, as part of the education program *In Our Own Backyard* - a partner effort between LandPaths and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

The property has been available for public use to a number of community, nonprofit and academic groups since the late 1960s, and the discounted purchase of a remainder interest in the property now will ensure that it is publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Allen".

MICHAEL ALLEN
Assemblymember, 7th District

cc: Amy Hutzler- Bay Area Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy

Valerie Brown- Board of Supervisors, Supervisor District 1

COMMITTEES

NATURAL RESOURCES, CHAIR
SELECT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITIES, CHAIR
SELECT COMMITTEE ON WINE, CHAIR
JOINT COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE, CHAIR

BUDGET
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1
JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND
TOXIC MATERIALS
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Assembly
California Legislature



WESLEY CHESBRO
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0001
(916) 319-2001
FAX (916) 319-2101

DISTRICT OFFICES
710 E. STREET, SUITE 150
EUREKA, CA 95501
(707) 445-7014
FAX (707) 445-6607

50 "D" STREET, SUITE 450
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
(707) 576-2526
FAX (707) 576-2297

311 N. STATE STREET
UKIAH, CA 95482
(707) 463-5770
FAX (707) 463-5773

April 15, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in strong support of LandPaths grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly-accessible nature center close to urban Santa Rosa at Ranchero Mark West.

Not only will this project provide needed public access close to a densely populated area, but it will permanently protect a reach of coho salmon and steelhead-bearing Mark West Creek. In addition, the project would tighten the existing working forest easement so as to permanently protect the climax successional riparian corridor and second and old-growth redwood forest adjacent to the creek.

The property has numerous facets which make it ideal for public use in addition to the ADA-accessible reach of Mark West Creek, including a historic ranch house, barn, pastures, pond and miles of hiking trails. Ranchero Mark West is situated at mile 25 in the 52-mile long Mayacamas Mountain Range and at its east-west midpoint, or in other words the geographic heart of one of the most species-rich areas in California. Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve, which abuts Santa Rosa's urban growth boundary, is less than one third of a mile from the property and could benefit greatly with the existing parking and staging area at Ranchero Mark West. The potential for ecological and public trail connectivity to Saddle Mountain and northeast towards Bothe Napa State Park are exciting aspects of this project.

LandPaths, has a track record of working with public agencies and community-based organizations to provide free, passive public use to lands throughout Sonoma County. In recent years this has included the development and stewardship of a landmark city park based on the model of a working farm, Bayer Farm & Gardens, which is situated in Roseland, the most park-underserved square mile in all of coastal Northern California. Hundreds of school children from the 9 school districts which comprise metropolitan Santa Rosa already use Ranchero Mark West under its current private ownership as part of the education program *In Our Own Backyard* - a partner effort between LandPaths and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

The property has been available for public use to a number of community, nonprofit and academic groups since the late 1960's, and the discounted purchase of a remainder interest in the property now will ensure that it is publicly accessible in perpetuity.

RECEIVED

APR 20 2011

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Exhibit 4: Project Letters

I urge you to approve Land Paths' application for funding of this most worthwhile project. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wesley Chesbro', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

WESLEY CHESBRO
Assemblyman, 1st District

cc: Amy Hutzal, Bay Area Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy

LYNN WOOLSEY
6TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES:

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD,
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0506

May 2, 2011

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2263 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5161

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1101 COLLEGE AVENUE, SUITE 200
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
TELEPHONE: (707) 542-7182

1050 NORTHGATE DRIVE, SUITE 354
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903
TELEPHONE: (415) 507-9554

WEB PAGE AND E-MAIL:
<http://www.woolsey.house.gov>

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to urge you to support LandPaths' grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly-accessible nature center close to urban Santa Rosa at Rancho Mark West.

Not only will this project provide needed public access close to a densely populated area, but it will permanently protect a reach of coho salmon and steelhead-bearing Mark West Creek. In addition, the project would tighten the existing working forest easement so as to permanently protect the climax successional riparian corridor and second and old-growth redwood forest adjacent to the creek.

The property has numerous facets which make it ideal for public use in addition to the ADA-accessible reach of Mark West Creek, including a historic ranch house, barn, pastures, pond and miles of hiking trails. Rancho Mark West is situated at mile 25 in the 52-mile long Mayacamas Mountain Range and at its east-west midpoint, or in other words the geographic heart of one of the most species-rich areas in California. Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve, which abuts Santa Rosa's urban growth boundary, is less than one third of a mile from the property and could benefit greatly with the existing parking and staging area at Rancho Mark West. The potential for ecological and public trail connectivity to Saddle Mountain and northeast towards Bothe Napa State Park are exciting aspects of this project.

Our nonprofit partner, LandPaths, has a track record of working with public agencies and community-based organizations to provide free, passive public use to lands throughout Sonoma County. In recent years this has included the development and stewardship of a landmark city park based on the model of a working farm, Bayer Farm & Gardens, which is situated in Roseland, the most park-underserved square mile in all of coastal Northern California. Hundreds of school children from the 9 school districts which comprise metropolitan Santa Rosa already use Rancho Mark West under its current private ownership as part of the education program *In Our Own Backyard* - a partner effort between LandPaths and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

The property has been available for public use to a number of community, nonprofit and academic groups since the late 1960's, and the discounted purchase of a remainder interest in the property now will ensure that it is publicly accessible in perpetuity.

I urge you to give this application your full and careful consideration. If you have any questions or comments, please contact my grants coordinator, George Haralambopoulos, in my Santa Rosa office at (707) 542-7182.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lynn Woolsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lynn" and last name "Woolsey" clearly distinguishable.

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

cc: Amy Hutzell, Bay Area Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy

RECEIVED

MAY 04 2011

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

COUNTY OF SONOMA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
575 ADMINISTRATION DRIVE, RM. 100A
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95403
(707) 565-2241
FAX (707) 565-3778



EFREN CARRILLO
SUPERVISOR FIFTH DISTRICT
ecarrillo@sonoma-county.org

April 18, 2010

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing in strong support of the LandPaths grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly-accessible nature center close to urban Santa Rosa at Rancho Mark West.


This project will provide needed public access close to a densely populated area, and it will permanently protect a reach of coho salmon and steelhead-bearing Mark West Creek. In addition, the project would tighten the existing working forest easement so as to permanently protect the climax successional riparian corridor and second and old-growth redwood forest adjacent to the creek.

The property has numerous facets which make it ideal for public use. In addition to the ADA-accessible reach of Mark West Creek, including a historic ranch house, barn, pastures, pond and miles of hiking trails. Rancho Mark West is situated at mile 25 in the 52-mile long Mayacamas Mountain Range and at its east-west midpoint, or in other words the geographic heart of one of the most species-rich areas in California. Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve, which abuts Santa Rosa's urban growth boundary, is less than one third of a mile from the property and could benefit greatly with the existing parking and staging area at Rancho Mark West. The potential for ecological and public trail connectivity to Saddle Mountain and northeast towards Bothe Napa State Park are also exciting aspects of this project.

LandPaths, has a proven track record of working with public agencies and community-based organizations to provide free, passive public use to lands throughout Sonoma County. In recent years this has included the development and stewardship of a landmark city park based on the model of a working farm, Bayer Farm & Gardens. Situated in Roseland, the most park-underserved square mile in all of coastal Northern California, Bayer serves hundreds of school children providing access to open space and community gardens. Nine school districts from metropolitan Santa Rosa already use Rancho Mark West, under its current private ownership, as part of the education program *In Our Own Backyard* - a partner effort between LandPaths and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

The property has been available for public use to a number of community, nonprofit and academic groups since the late 1960's, and the discounted purchase of a remainder interest in the property now will ensure that it is publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Sincerely,


Efren Carrillo
Supervisor, Fifth District

cc: Amy Hutzel, Bay Area Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy

RECEIVED
APR 21 2011
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



5340 Skylane Boulevard
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-8246
(707) 524-2600 ■ www.scoe.org

April 19, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

On behalf of the Sonoma County Office of Education, which serves 71,000 students in Sonoma County, I strongly support LandPaths' grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly-accessible nature center close to urban Santa Rosa at Ranchero Mark West. As you are aware, funds for public education have been drastically reduced the past three years, and environmental education in schools is at a minimum.

The property has numerous facets which would make it ideal for public school students to explore the rich variety of species in California as well as the historical value of the ranch house and barn. It also offers extensive hiking trails for nature observation and appreciation.

Our nonprofit partner, LandPaths, has a track record of working with public agencies and community-based organizations to provide free, passive public use to lands throughout Sonoma County. In recent years this has included the development and stewardship of a landmark city park based on the model of a working farm, Bayer Farm & Gardens, which is situated in Roseland, the most park-underserved square mile in all of coastal Northern California. Hundreds of school children from the 9 school districts which comprise metropolitan Santa Rosa already use Ranchero Mark West under its current private ownership as part of the education program *In Our Own Backyard* - a partner effort between LandPaths and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

The property has been available for public use to a number of community, nonprofit and academic groups since the late 1960s, and the discounted purchase of a remainder interest in the property now will ensure that it is publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Steven D. Herrington, written in a cursive style.

Steven D. Herrington, Ph.D.
County Superintendent

cc: Amy Hutzal, Bay Area Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy

RECEIVED
APR 21 2011
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

COUNTY OF SONOMA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
575 ADMINISTRATION DRIVE, RM. 100A
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95403
(707) 565-2241
FAX (707) 565-3778



SHIRLEE ZANE
THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
szane@sonoma-county.org

March 22, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing in strong support of LandPaths' grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly accessible nature center close to urban Santa Rosa at Rancho Mark West.

Not only will this project provide needed public access close to a densely populated area, but it will permanently protect a reach of coho salmon and the steelhead-bearing Mark West Creek. In addition, the project would tighten the existing working forest easement so as to permanently protect the climax successional riparian corridor and old-growth redwood forest adjacent to the creek.

The property has numerous facets which make it ideal for public use in addition to the ADA-accessible reach of Mark West Creek, including a historic ranch house, barn, pastures, pond and miles of hiking trails. Rancho Mark West is situated in the geographic heart of one of the most species-rich areas in California. Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve, which abuts Santa Rosa's urban growth boundary, is less than one third of a mile from the property and could benefit greatly with the existing parking and staging area at Rancho Mark West. The potential for ecological and public trail connectivity to Saddle Mountain and northeast towards Bothe Napa State Park are exciting aspects of this project.

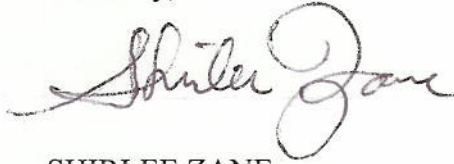
Having worked with LandPaths on the management of a major open space acquisition within my district, Taylor Mountain, I can attest to their proven track record of working with public agencies and community-based organizations to provide free, passive public use to lands throughout Sonoma County. In recent years this has included the development and stewardship of a landmark city park based on the model of a working farm, Bayer Farm & Gardens, which is situated in Roseland, the most park-underserved square mile in all of coastal Northern California. Hundreds of school children from the nine school districts which comprise metropolitan Santa Rosa already use Rancho Mark West under its current private ownership as part of the education program *In Our Own Backyard* - a partner effort between LandPaths and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

The property has been available for public use to a number of community, nonprofit and academic groups since the late 1960's, and the discounted purchase of a remainder interest in the property now will ensure that it is publicly accessible in perpetuity. Having personally toured the property, I can attest that it would make an extraordinary location for an environmental education and publicly accessible nature center.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of this proposal and can be reached at szane@sonoma-county.org or (707) 565-3756 with any questions about my recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Shirlee Zane", written in a cursive style.

SHIRLEE ZANE
Third District Supervisor

cc: Amy Hutzler, Bay Area Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy

RECEIVED

MAR 25 2011

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

COUNTY OF SONOMA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
575 ADMINISTRATION DRIVE, RM. 100A
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95403
(707) 565-2241
FAX (707) 565-3778



VALERIE BROWN
FIRST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
vbrown@sonoma-county.org

March 28, 2011

Amy Hutzel, Bay Area Program Manager
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Hutzel,

I am writing in strong support of LandPaths grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly-accessible nature center close to urban Santa Rosa at Ranchero Mark West.

Not only will this project provide needed public access close to a densely populated area, but it will permanently protect a reach of coho salmon and steelhead-bearing Mark West Creek. In addition, the project would tighten the existing working forest easement so as to permanently protect the climax successional riparian corridor and second and old-growth redwood forest adjacent to the creek.

The property has numerous facets which make it ideal for public use in addition to the ADA-accessible reach of Mark West Creek, including a historic ranch house, barn, pastures, pond and miles of hiking trails. Ranchero Mark West is situated at mile 25 in the 52-mile long Mayacamas Mountain Range and at its east-west midpoint, or in other words the geographic heart of one of the most species-rich areas in California. Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve, which abuts Santa Rosa's urban growth boundary, is less than one third of a mile from the property and could benefit greatly with the existing parking and staging area at Ranchero Mark West. The potential for ecological and public trail connectivity to Saddle Mountain and northeast towards Bothe Napa State Park are exciting aspects of this project.

Our nonprofit partner, LandPaths, has a track record of working with public agencies and community-based organizations to provide free, passive public use to lands throughout Sonoma County.

The property has been available for public use to a number of community, nonprofit and academic groups since the late 1960's, and the discounted purchase of a remainder interest in the property now will ensure that it is publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

Valerie Brown, Chair and First District Supervisor
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

RECEIVED

MAR 30 2011

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



March 18, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing in strong support of LandPaths grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly accessible nature center close to urban Santa Rosa at Rancho Mark West.

Not only will this project provide needed public access close to a densely populated area, but it will permanently protect a reach of coho salmon and steelhead-bearing Mark West Creek. In addition, the project would enhance the existing working forest easement so as to permanently protect the climax successional riparian corridor and second and old-growth redwood forest adjacent to the creek.

The property has numerous facets which make it ideal for public use in addition to the ADA accessible reach of Mark West Creek, including a historic ranch house, barn, pastures, pond, and miles of hiking trails. Rancho Mark West is situated at mile 25 in the 52-mile long Mayacamas Mountain Range and at its east-west midpoint, or in other words, the geographic heart of one of the most species-rich areas in California. Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve, which abuts Santa Rosa's urban growth boundary, is less than one third of a mile from the property and could benefit greatly with the existing parking and staging area at Rancho Mark West. The potential for ecological and public trail connectivity to Saddle Mountain and northeast towards Bothe Napa State Park are exciting aspects of this project.

Our nonprofit partner, LandPaths, has a track record of working with public agencies and community-based organizations to provide free, passive public use to lands throughout Sonoma County. In recent years this has included the development and stewardship of a landmark city park based on the model of a working farm, Bayer Farm & Gardens, which is situated in Roseland, the most park-underserved square mile in all of coastal Northern California. Hundreds of school children from the nine school districts, which comprise metropolitan Santa Rosa, already use Rancho Mark West under its current private ownership as part of the education program *In Our Own Backyard*—a partner effort between LandPaths and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

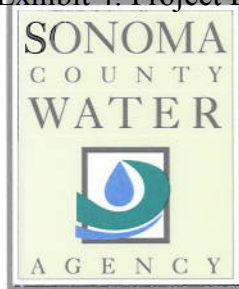
The property has been available for public use to a number of community, nonprofit, and academic groups since the late 1960's, and the discounted purchase of a remainder interest in the property now will ensure that it is publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Keene".

William J. Keene, General Manager
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

c: Amy Hutzell, Bay Area Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy



FILE:CF/40-0-1 GENERAL

April 11, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
 State Coastal Conservancy
 1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
 Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in strong support of LandPaths grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly-accessible nature center close to urban Santa Rosa at Rancho Mark West.

Not only will this project provide needed public access close to a densely populated area, but it will permanently protect a reach of coho salmon and steelhead-bearing Mark West Creek. In addition, the project would tighten the existing working forest easement so as to permanently protect the climax successional riparian corridor and second and old-growth redwood forest adjacent to the creek.

The property has numerous facets which make it ideal for public use in addition to the ADA-accessible reach of Mark West Creek, including a historic ranch house, barn, pastures, pond and miles of hiking trails. Rancho Mark West is situated at mile 25 in the 52-mile long Mayacamas Mountain Range and at its east-west midpoint, or in other words the geographic heart of one of the most species-rich areas in California. Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve, which abuts Santa Rosa's urban growth boundary, is less than one third of a mile from the property and could benefit greatly with the existing parking and staging area at Rancho Mark West. The potential for ecological and public trail connectivity to Saddle Mountain and northeast towards Bothe Napa State Park are exciting aspects of this project.

Our nonprofit partner, LandPaths, has a track record of working with public agencies and community-based organizations to provide free, passive public use to lands throughout Sonoma County. In recent years this has included the development and stewardship of a landmark city park based on the model of a working farm, Bayer Farm & Gardens, which is situated in Roseland, the most park-underserved square mile in all of coastal Northern California. Hundreds of school children from the 9 school districts which comprise metropolitan Santa Rosa already use Rancho Mark West under its current private ownership as part of the education program *In Our Own Backyard* - a partner effort between LandPaths and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

The property has been available for public use to a number of community, nonprofit and academic groups since the late 1960's, and the discounted purchase of a remainder interest in the property now will ensure that it is publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grant Davis".

Grant Davis
 General Manager

RECEIVED

APR 13 2011

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
 OAKLAND, CALIF.

c Amy Hutzel, Bay Area Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy



COUNTY of SONOMA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Rita Scardaci, PHN, MPH – Director
Ruth Lincoln, PHN, MA – Assistant Director

April 4, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

On behalf of the Sonoma County Department of Health Services, I am writing in strong support of LandPaths grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly-accessible nature center close to urban Santa Rosa at Ranchero Mark West.

This project is aligned with our Department's goals for creating a healthier community in Sonoma County. One of our identified priorities is to increase opportunities for physical activity in Sonoma County. This project will provide needed public access to open space near a densely-populated area, and will permanently protect a reach of Coho salmon and steelhead-bearing Mark West Creek. The property has numerous facets that will attract widespread public use and encourage physical activity. In addition to the ADA-accessible reach of Mark West Creek, the property includes a historic ranch house, barn, pastures, pond and miles of hiking trails. The potential for ecological and public trail connectivity to Saddle Mountain and northeast towards Bothe Napa State Park are exciting aspects of this project. The property has been available for public use to a number of community, nonprofit and academic groups since the late 1960's, and the discounted purchase of a remainder interest in the property now will ensure that it is publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Our nonprofit partner, LandPaths, has a successful track record of working with public agencies and community-based organizations to provide free, passive public use to lands throughout Sonoma County. In recent years this has included the development and stewardship of a landmark city park based on the model of a working farm, Bayer Farm & Gardens, which is situated in Roseland, the most park-underserved square mile in all of coastal Northern California. Hundreds of school children from Santa Rosa already use Ranchero Mark West under its current private ownership as part of the education program *In Our Own Backyard* - a partner effort between LandPaths and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. LandPaths has also been a significant partner in our recently launched countywide walking initiative, called iWALK, by leading and promoting public hikes and walks throughout the county.

Thank you for your consideration of this application. This project is an important opportunity to build on existing community assets and partnerships to increase opportunities for physical activity and environmental education in Sonoma County. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Rita Scardaci, Director
Department of Health Services

cc: Amy Hutzal, Bay Area Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy

RECEIVED

APR 04 2011

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Michael Houlihan and Bonnie Harvey
Barefoot Wine Founders
PO Box 400 Forestville CA 95436
707 887 8787

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco

We are writing to express our strong support of LandPaths grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly-accessible nature center at Rancho Mark West.

Bonnie and I are the founders of Barefoot Wines. 25 years ago we first bottled the now popular wine with the big foot on the label here in Sonoma County. We are not wine connoisseurs but are in love with the 'wine country' itself. We have been avid hikers for decades.

Barefoot's only form of advertising was through "worthy cause" promotions. We donated to and supported over 1000 non-profits across the country, mostly conservation groups. Here at home we have supported the Sonoma County Land Trust, the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, the Coastal Conservancy and our favorite conservation non-profit, LandPaths.

What we love about LandPaths is their comprehensive and game-changing approach to conservation and access. Land Paths' People Powered Parks movement has attracted thousands of user-stewards. They have shifted the paradigm from passive entitlement to ownership and responsibility. What better approach for these budget challenged times?

LandPaths bilingual agriculture and nature programs for Sonoma County school children, especially the disadvantaged, are building the agricultural and conservation advocates of tomorrow.

LandPaths has demonstrated a sustainable model for the rest of the country to provide access to otherwise closed properties and an opportunity for schoolchildren to appreciate their relationship with the land.

RECEIVED
MAR 30 2011
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Rancho Mark West is an ideal acquisition for several reasons. It is an absolute gem of a property in the Mayacamus Mountains complete with diverse ecosystems, a large pond, and great infrastructure. It is close to Santa Rosa making hiking access easy and popular.

Its use as an environmental center will make it within easy reach of Santa Rosa Schools. It is near other established open spaces and will further preserve the interdependent habitats. It is still vulnerable to agricultural development unless the property's riparian and forest cover can be saved in perpetuity.

LandPaths has proven its ability to manage this kind of project from Bayer Farm to Willow Creek and several other lands. Without access, open space is just scenery. Without hands-on environmental education to today's school children, our efforts could be lost in 10-20 years when they become the majority of the voters.

We avidly support the acquisition of Rancho Mark West as accessible open space and youth environmental center.

Sincerely


Michael Houlihan and Bonnie Harvey
Barefoot Wine Founders and Open Space Advocates

cc: Amy Hutzal, Bay Area Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy



Community Clean Water Institute

500 North Main St. Suite 110 Sebastopol, CA 95472
707-824-4370 www.ccwi.org info@ccwi.org

April 6, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing on behalf of the Community Clean Water Institute (CCWI) to express our strong support of LandPaths' grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly-accessible nature center close to urban Santa Rosa at Ranchero Mark West.

This property encompasses a .7 mile stretch of Mark West Creek in the Russian River watershed. CCWI has been monitoring water quality at several sites on Mark West Creek since 2003, and has documented a reduction in both the quantity and quality of water over that time period. Our data has been used by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to establish Mark West Creek as a federal 303d-listed impaired water body. Despite its impairment, Mark West Creek is still considered to be one of the most promising creeks in the Russian River watershed for the endangered Coho salmon and steelhead.

For these reasons, it is imperative that land in this area be preserved and stewarded in a way that will increase the quality of habitat in the riparian corridor. In addition, it is important that people have access to those areas, to be able to see, experience, and develop a connection to these places, so that the importance of protecting these lands takes on personal meaning in people's lives. The proximity of Ranchero Mark West to Santa Rosa's urban centers makes this an ideal location for a nature center to accomplish these goals.

Our nonprofit partner, LandPaths, has an excellent track record for connecting people with the land. We believe they are the ideal organization to take on such a much-needed project. We urge your support for their grant request.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Stearns
Program Director
Community Clean Water Institute

cc: Amy Hutzell, Bay Area Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy

RECEIVED

APR 07 2011

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



900 Sanford Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 527-9277

www.lagunafoundation.org

March 28, 2011

Board of Directors

Guy Smith
President

Hugh Helm
Vice President

Ken Churchill
Treasurer

Dr. Caroline Christian
Secretary

Jeff Allen

Janine Barnes, CPA

Bill Cox

Richard Power

Staff

David Bannister
Executive Director

Hattie Brown
*Conservation Science
Program Manager*

Catherine Cumberland
*Restoration Program
Manager*

Christine Fontaine
*Director of Education
Programs*

Maggie Hart
Administrative Director

Nancy Hauptmann
Membership Assistant

Jesse Heiny
*Restoration Project
Technician*

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in strong support of LandPaths grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly-accessible nature center close to urban Santa Rosa at Ranchero Mark West. I am personally familiar with this property, having lived in close proximity to it and participated in many hikes there. Furthermore, I am excited at the possibility of collaborating with Landpaths on a "top and bottom" of the watershed environmental education program and the subject location and facility would be perfect for that.

Not only will this project provide needed public access close to a densely populated area, but it will permanently protect a reach of coho salmon and steelhead-bearing Mark West Creek. In addition, the project would tighten the existing working forest easement so as to permanently protect the climax successional riparian corridor and second and old-growth redwood forest adjacent to the creek.

The property has numerous facets which make it ideal for public use in addition to the ADA-accessible reach of Mark West Creek, including a historic ranch house, barn, pastures, pond and miles of hiking trails. Ranchero Mark West is situated at mile 25 in the 52-mile long Mayacamas Mountain Range and at its east-west midpoint, or in other words the geographic heart of one of the most species-rich areas in California. Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve, which abuts Santa Rosa's urban growth boundary, is less than one third of a mile from the property and could benefit greatly with the existing parking and staging area at Ranchero Mark West. The potential for ecological and public trail connectivity to Saddle Mountain and northeast towards Bothe Napa State Park are exciting aspects of this project.

Our nonprofit partner, LandPaths, has a track record of working with public agencies and community-based organizations to provide free, passive public use to lands throughout Sonoma County. Hundreds of school children from the 9 school districts which comprise metropolitan Santa Rosa already use Ranchero Mark West under its current private ownership as part of the education program *In Our Own Backyard* - a partner effort between LandPaths and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

The property has been available for public use to a number of community, nonprofit and academic groups since the late 1960's, and the discounted purchase of a remainder interest in the property now will ensure that it is publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

 **DAVID BANNISTER, EXEC. DIRECTOR**
cc: Amy Hutzel, Bay Area Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy

RECEIVED

MAR 29 2011

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



City of Santa Rosa

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing in strong support of LandPaths grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly-accessible nature center close to urban Santa Rosa at Rancho Mark West.

Not only will this project provide needed public access close to a densely populated area, but it will permanently protect a reach of Coho salmon and steelhead-bearing Mark West Creek. In addition, the project would tighten the existing working forest easement so as to permanently protect the climax successional riparian corridor and second and old-growth redwood forest adjacent to the creek.

The property has numerous facets which make it ideal for public use in addition to the ADA-accessible reach of Mark West Creek, including a historic ranch house, barn, pastures, pond and miles of hiking trails. Rancho Mark West is situated at mile 25 in the 52-mile long Mayacamas Mountain Range and at its east-west midpoint, or in other words the geographic heart of one of the most species-rich areas in California. Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve, which abuts Santa Rosa's urban growth boundary, is less than one third of a mile from the property and could benefit greatly with the existing parking and staging area at Rancho Mark West. The potential for ecological and public trail connectivity to Saddle Mountain and northeast towards Bothe Napa State Park are exciting aspects of this project.

Our nonprofit partner, LandPaths, has a track record of working with public agencies and community-based organizations to provide free, passive public use to lands throughout Sonoma County. In recent years this has included the development and stewardship of a landmark city park based on the model of a working farm, Bayer Farm & Gardens, which is situated in Roseland, the most park-underserved square mile in all of coastal Northern California. Hundreds of school children from the 9 school districts which comprise metropolitan Santa Rosa already use Rancho Mark West under its current private ownership as part of the education program *In Our Own Backyard* - a partner effort between LandPaths and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

The property has been available for public use to a number of community, nonprofit and academic groups since the late 1960's, and the discounted purchase of a remainder interest in the property now will ensure that it is publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marc Richardson".

Marc Richardson, Director
City of Santa Rosa Recreation, Parks & Community Services

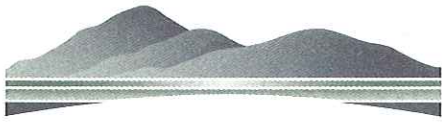
MRR/yce

cc: Amy Hutzler, Bay Area Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy

RECEIVED

MAR 25 2011

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



SONOMA LAND TRUST

966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Tel: 707-526-6930
Fax: 707-526-3001

www.sonomalandtrust.org

April 14, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for LandPaths' Grant Request – Ranchero Mark West

Dear Chairman Bosco,

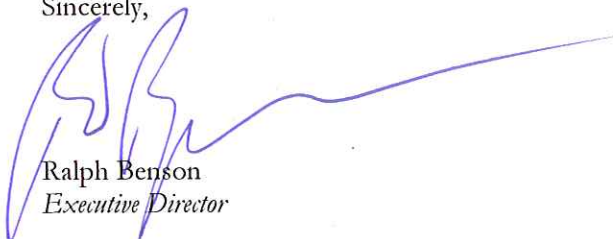
I am writing to support LandPaths' grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to acquire a remainder interest in the 122-acre Ranchero Mark West property. The recently signed purchase agreement with LandPaths reserves a joint life estate for the landowners, and so offers an opportunity for LandPaths to acquire the land at a discount off the full fee property value and offer its educational programs immediately, making this a cost effective transaction for the public.

Ranchero Mark West is located northeast of Santa Rosa within the Mayacamas mountain range, and is near several protected areas including Saddle Mountain Open Space Reserve and Bothe Napa Valley State Park. The forested portions of the property are comprised of both coastal oak woodland and montane hardwood-conifer species, including stands of mature redwoods. Mark West Creek, a major tributary to the Russian River, flows the length of the property and provides high quality spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead trout and coho salmon. Over two hundred bird species have been documented on the property, including several species of raptors that are federally and state listed as endangered or threatened. With the addition of grassland utilized for cattle-grazing, this property provides excellent educational opportunities focusing on the exploration of natural and working landscapes.

LandPaths has a proven track record of working with public agencies and community-based organizations to provide free, public use to lands throughout Sonoma County. Hundreds of school children from metropolitan Santa Rosa's nine school districts have already visited Ranchero Mark West as part of the education program *In Our Own Backyard* - a partner effort between LandPaths and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. The property has a well-maintained network of roads and trails, a portion of which are ADA-accessible, as well as other existing infrastructure that demonstrate its public-access readiness.

The purchase of a remainder interest in Ranchero Mark West will ensure that it is publicly accessible in perpetuity. We urge the Coastal Conservancy to support LandPaths' goal to transform the property into a permanent public nature and education preserve that will be highly accessible to Santa Rosa's diverse urban population.

Sincerely,



Ralph Benson
Executive Director

cc: Amy Hutzel, Bay Area Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy
Craig Anderson, Executive Director, LandPaths

...to protect the land forever

SOTOYOME



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.sotoyomercd.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Earle Cummings
President

Walt Ryan
Vice President

Dennis Murphy
Director

Ron Roller
Director

Steve Thomas
Director

Associate Directors
Richard Mounts
Matt Greene
Ray Krauss
Julie Collins

STAFF

Kara Heckert
Executive Director

Smita Martinez
Executive Assistant

Valerie Minton
Conservation Project Manager

Andy Casarez
Physical Scientist

Kevin Cullinen
Project Technician

Francesca Innocenti
Biologist

Playalina Nelson
Restoration Ecologist

Amy Richards
Bookkeeper/Human Resources

707.569.1448 TEL
707.569.0434 FAX

PHYSICAL ADDRESS
201 Concourse Blvd, Suite B
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 11526
Santa Rosa CA 95406

April 14, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing in strong support of LandPaths grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly-accessible nature center close to urban Santa Rosa at Ranchero Mark West.

Not only will this project provide needed public access close to a densely populated area, but it will permanently protect a reach of coho salmon and steelhead-bearing Mark West Creek. In addition, the project would tighten the existing working forest easement so as to permanently protect the climax successional riparian corridor and second and old-growth redwood forest adjacent to the creek.

The property has numerous facets which make it ideal for public use in addition to the ADA-accessible reach of Mark West Creek, including a historic ranch house, barn, pastures, pond and miles of hiking trails. Ranchero Mark West is situated at mile 25 in the 52-mile long Mayacamas Mountain Range and at its east-west midpoint, or in other words the geographic heart of one of the most species-rich areas in California.

Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve, which abuts Santa Rosa's urban growth boundary, is less than one third of a mile from the property and could benefit greatly with the existing parking and staging area at Ranchero Mark West. The potential for ecological and public trail connectivity to Saddle Mountain and northeast towards Bothe Napa State Park are exciting aspects of this project.

The local nonprofit LandPaths has a track record of working with public agencies and community-based organizations to provide free, passive public use to lands throughout Sonoma County. In recent years this has included the development and stewardship of a landmark city park based on the model of a working farm, Bayer Farm & Gardens, which is situated in Roseland, the most park-underserved square mile in all of coastal Northern California.

RECEIVED

APR 15 2011

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



City of Santa Rosa

April 18, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing in strong support of LandPaths' grant request to the Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy to create a permanent environmental education and publicly-accessible nature center close to urban Santa Rosa at Rancho Mark West.

ERNESTO OLIVARES
Mayor

JAKE OURS
Vice Mayor

Not only will this project provide needed public access close to a densely populated area, but it will permanently protect a reach of Coho salmon and steelhead-bearing Mark West Creek. In addition, the project would tighten the existing working forest easement so as to permanently protect the climax successional riparian corridor and second and old-growth redwood forest adjacent to the creek.

SCOTT BARTLEY
SUSAN GORIN
JOHN SAWYER
MARSHA VAS DUPRE
GARY WYSOCKY

The property has numerous facets which make it ideal for public use in addition to the ADA-accessible reach of Mark West Creek, including a historic ranch house, barn, pastures, pond, and miles of hiking trails. Rancho Mark West is situated at mile 25 in the 52-mile long Mayacamas Mountain Range and at its east-west midpoint or, in other words, the geographic heart of one of the most species-rich areas in California. Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve, which abuts Santa Rosa's urban growth boundary, is less than one third of a mile from the property and could benefit greatly with the existing parking and staging area at Rancho Mark West. The potential for ecological and public trail connectivity to Saddle Mountain and northeast towards Bothe Napa State Park are exciting aspects of this project.

Our nonprofit partner, LandPaths, has a track record of working with public agencies and community-based organizations to provide free, passive public use to lands throughout Sonoma County. In recent years, this has included the development and stewardship of a landmark City park based on the model of a working farm, Bayer Farm and Gardens, which is situated in Roseland. Hundreds of school children from the nine school districts which comprise metropolitan Santa Rosa already use Rancho Mark West under its current private ownership as part of the education program, *In Our Own Backyard* - a partner effort between LandPaths and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

Office of the Mayor
100 Santa Rosa Avenue - Room 10 • Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Phone: (707) 543-3010 • Fax: (707) 543-3030
www.srcity.org

RECEIVED

APR 19 2011

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

April 18, 2011

Page 2

The property has been available for public use to a number of community, nonprofit, and academic groups since the late 1960's, and the discounted purchase of a remainder interest in the property now will ensure that it is publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ERNESTO OLIVARES", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ERNESTO OLIVARES

Mayor

EO/sks

c: Amy Hutzal, Bay Area Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy